

Mahdi seeks to form new coalition

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudanese Prime Minister Sadiq Al Mahdi was expected on Sunday to give party leaders proposals for a broad-based national unity government to replace his coalition government which collapsed on Saturday. State television quoted Mr. Mahdi as saying Saturday he had also invited leaders and legislators of south Sudanese parties to discuss with him on Monday their role in a future government. Mr. Mahdi, whose coalition gave up its seat to office in May last year after Sudan's first democratic poll in nearly 20 years, did not disclose details of the proposals for the projected government. The collapse of the coalition of Mr. Mahdi's Umma Party with the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) came two weeks after Umma, the senior coalition partner, masterminded the election of lawyer Mirghani Al Nasir as a Supreme Council seat previously held by a DUP member. Mr. Nasir's election to the council, a five-man body acting as a collective presidency, violated a power-sharing agreement between Umma and the DUP. The crisis was the latest in a series of jolts which plagued the government, set off by an acute foreign currency shortage, a costly four-year-old bush war against rebels in south Sudan and a foreign debt of more than \$1 billion.

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King sends good wishes to Romania

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein sent a cable of good wishes on Sunday to Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu congratulating him on the occasion of his country's National Day. The King wished President Ceausescu continuing good health and the Romanian people further progress and prosperity. To mark the occasion of National Day, Romanian Ambassador in Amman Teodor Coman hosted a reception at the Amman Hotel. The reception was attended by officials, members of the Arab and foreign diplomatic corps and invited guests. An art exhibition entitled "Romania Today" was opened Sunday at the Amman Hotel.

U.S. denies report of Gorbachev visit

SANTA BARBARA (R) — The White House on Sunday denied a report that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev planned to attend the U.N. General Assembly meeting late next month and then go to Washington to meet President Reagan. In a headlined report from Washington, the Los Angeles Times had quoted informed sources as saying if an agreement is reached beforehand on the talks on banning short and medium-range missiles, the two leaders would sign an arms accord in the setting of a full summit conference (See page 8). "We don't have any knowledge of any such plan," a White House spokesman told Reuters in Santa Barbara, where President Reagan is vacationing.

3 executed in S. Arabia

Riyadh (R) — Three men were executed in Saudi Arabia on Saturday for smuggling drugs and arms, the Interior Ministry said. A statement, carried by the Saudi Press Agency, said they were caught smuggling 70 kilogrammes of hashish and several weapons across the northern border.

Raimond decries hostage 'blackmail'

PARIS (AP) — Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond on Sunday condemned the pro-Iranian kidnappers who have threatened to mistreat French hostages. "All blackmail using the hostages held in Lebanon is abominable by definition," said Mr. Raimond in a television interview broadcast Sunday. On Friday, the Islamic Jihad delivered a statement to western news agencies in west Beirut that threatened to "mis-treat" French and American hostages unless conditions improved for 17 Shiite prisoners jailed in Kuwait. Mr. Raimond said that France would not deal with the kidnappers, but only with countries, such as Syria or Iran, who have influence with the kidnappers. (Related story on page 2)

Moscow names new chief for state bank

MOSCOW (R) — A deputy finance minister, Nikolai Garetsky, has been appointed chairman of the board of the Soviet State Bank, the official TASS news agency said Sunday. Mr. Garetsky, 61, replaces Viktor Dementyev, who had served in the post since January 1980.

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Klibi advises Iran to observe ceasefire

Saud, opening Arab League talks, calls for unanimous, practical action to counter Tehran

TUNIS (Agencies) — Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi on Sunday advised Iran it could prevent a serious aggravation of the Gulf war if it answered a United Nations ceasefire.

Speaking at the opening of a special meeting of the Arab League Council of Ministers, Mr. Klibi said: "Tehran can still avoid the worst, and prevent a profound aggravation of the conflict, by agreeing to cooperate seriously with the U.N. secretary general."

He said Iran should comply "without delay" with last month's U.N. Security Council resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire between Iran and Iraq.

He added that the resolution "guarantees peaceful and fair solution of the conflict."

Mr. Klibi held Iran responsible for an escalation of the tension with its neighbours" and for attempts to "widen the battlefield" by trying to drag others into the war.

He said the meeting of Arab ministers had been called to "show without ambiguity that the security of these countries (Saudi Arabia and Kuwait) is assumed by all our states which are united."

He called for the formulation of a collective strategy capable of "ensuring that the latest Security Council resolution will be carried out."

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saad Al Faisal who presided at the opening session called for

"unanimous and practical decisions to meet the challenges and obstinacy of the Tehran regime."

He denounced the "terrorist and destructive" behaviour of Iran against the Islamic and Arab worlds and particularly against its neighbours in the Gulf.

Diplomats said a protracted discussion over a joint Arab position appeared to be in the offing and expected the meeting to continue through the night.

Foreign ministers from 17 Arab states are attending the meeting.

Asked on arrival Saturday night if he would propose that the Arabs should cut ties with Tehran, the Saudi foreign minister said Riyadh wanted the meeting to adopt a united Arab stand.

"What we want is a joint Arab position towards the Iranian regime. Because of its attacks on Saudi Arabian embassies and other diplomatic missions in Tehran, it clearly shows that the country does not recognise and does not want to apply the diplomatic rules in force," he said.

Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Tunisia have accused Tehran of fomenting violence in Mecca where more than 400 pilgrims were killed on July 31.

Nearly 300 of the dead were Iranians and the Saudi embassy in Tehran was attacked during de-

Bridgeton steams ahead of convoy after unexplained 12-hour halt off Bahrain

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — The mine-damaged supertanker Bridgeton and two American warships steamed towards the Strait of Hormuz on Sunday, far ahead of a convoy of three smaller Kuwaiti tankers.

It was not clear whether the other tankers would catch up with the Bridgeton later for the dangerous transit through the strait past Iranian anti-ship missile emplacements.

The 401,382-ton Bridgeton and the destroyer Kidd were spotted by a team from the NBC broadcast network aboard a helicopter about 160 kilometres southeast of the smaller tankers.

By early evening the patched-up supertanker, one of the largest

in the world, was reported to be in international waters inside the Gulf and off the United Arab Emirates coast.

Even further ahead, the USS Guadalcanal and its Sea Stallion minesweeping helicopters scouted the waters, said Gulf-based shipping executives and another group of reporters posted farther south along the Gulf.

The Bridgeton was holed by a mine July 24 off an Iranian island in the northern Gulf, but safely sailed through the same waters Saturday for the return journey.

The 81,283-ton Sea Isle City, both tankers, and the 46,723-ton Gas King, a liquefied gas carrier, had anchored for 12 hours 80

kilometres away from the convoy at the time.

Britain says it has no plans to restore ties with Syria

LONDON (AP) — Britain has no evidence that Syria has abandoned its alleged support for "terrorism" and has no plans to restore diplomatic relations, which were severed in 1980 because of Damascus' alleged involvement in "terrorist" activities, a Foreign Office minister said Sunday.

Deputy Foreign Secretary Linda Chalker said in a London Broadcast Company radio interview that Britain had no intention of following the United States in improving ties with Syria.

Britain broke diplomatic relations with Syria last October, accusing it of complicity in an alleged plot to blow up an El Al Boeing at London's Heathrow airport in April 1986.

A few weeks later, U.S. President Ronald Reagan withdrew his ambassador from Damascus. Washington sources say the U.S. ambassador, William Eagleton, is due back in Damascus around Sept. 1.

Mrs. Chalker said: "It's always difficult to know exactly why

(Continued on page 3)

Neo-Nazis gather for Hess funeral in W. German town

WUNSIEDEL, West Germany (Agencies) — Two hundred neo-Nazis have converged on Wunsiedel for the burial on Wednesday of Hitler's deputy Rudolf Hess and more are on the way, police said Sunday.

Paramilitary border guards manned round-the-clock road blocks around the tranquil town set in rolling hills close to the Czechoslovak frontier. Police helicopters circled overhead.

In the last two days 93 neo-Nazis and others have been detained in the area.

One man, who wore a black mask when neo-Nazis stormed on Saturday into the cemetery giving Hitler salutes and shouting "Revenge for Hess," will be kept in jail, he said.

Judicial authorities have banned all open air meetings in and near Wunsiedel connected in any way with Hess, who died of apparent suicide last Monday in West Berlin after 41 years in allied custody. His body is being kept at a secret location.

The delay in burying the last remaining Nazi leader was caused by the insistence of his son Wolf-Ruediger Hess on a second autopsy. He has said he doubts statements by the wartime allies that Hess committed suicide.

Neo-Nazis and other far-right groups have seized on the doubts of Wolf-Ruediger and family lawyer Alfred Seidl and are claiming that Hess was murdered

(Continued on page 3)

King Hussein named Man of Peace of '87

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Dag Hammarskjold Academy has chosen His Majesty King Hussein as the "Man of Peace" of 1987 and decided to award the King Dag Hammarskjold Award for Peace in recognition of His Majesty's endeavours for world peace and efforts for increasing international cooperation and for justice and equality among world countries.

The president of the academy made the announcement upon his arrival here on Sunday at the head of an academy delegation. In making the announcement he also paid tribute to the King for his relentless efforts towards peace in the Middle East.

The Brussels-based Dag Hammarskjold Academy is an independent non-governmental institution with no political or religious affiliations. It was established in 1963 in memory

demonstrations after the Mecca incidents. Iran has so far reacted negatively to the United Nations Security Council resolution last month calling for a ceasefire in the Gulf war and proposing sanctions if its recommendations are not heeded.

Diplomats said it was most unlikely Syria or Libya, which have friendly relations with Tehran, would join any blanket Arab condemnation of Iran.

They said that Algeria, which is on good terms with both Iran and Iraq and has tried several times to mediate in the Gulf conflict, would be unwilling to take sides.

Iraq, represented at the Tunis meeting by Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz, says it will accept the U.N. resolution if Iran does. Iran has neither accepted nor rejected it.

The meeting was taking place amid tension created by the presence of a fleet of more than 40 foreign warships in the Gulf and fears that the war may spread to other states in the area.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), whose chairman Yasser Arafat is attending the league meeting, said in a communiqué it "condemns the pursuit of the Iran-Iraq war" and noted that Iraq had "accepted all initiatives designed to put an end to the conflict."

Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Tunisia have accused Tehran of fomenting violence in Mecca where more than 400 pilgrims were killed on July 31.

Nearly 300 of the dead were Iranians and the Saudi embassy in Tehran was attacked during de-

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Iraqis keep up raids on Bandar Khomeini

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq said Sunday its warplanes bombed the key Iranian petrochemical complex of Bandar Khomeini for a second time in 24 hours.

A communiqué by the General Command of the Iraqi Armed Forces said 30 Iraqi fighter-bombers took part in the air raid at 11:28 a.m. (0728 GMT).

Iran's official news media had no immediate comment on the report.

Baghdad's communiqué, carried by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), said the warplanes "served a destructive blow to the Bandar Khomeini petrochemical complex after challenging and destroying surface-to-air missile batteries deployed around it."

The warplanes showered the area with bombs, setting the batteries and the complex on fire before returning safely to base."

(Continued on page 3)

U.S. believes Gulf war will not last much longer

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States does not believe the Iran-Iraq war will last much longer but will keep warships in the Gulf as long as necessary to protect vital U.S. interests, a State Department official said Sunday.

Richard Murphy, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, said in a U.S. television interview with the U.S. commitment to protect Kuwaiti oil tankers flying the American flag would continue as long as needed.

"I don't think it is open-ended because I do not think the war will endure all that long," Mr. Murphy said of the U.S. commitment.

He was asked whether the United States would pull out if there was a major loss of U.S. lives as happened in Lebanon after more than 200 U.S. Marines died in a bombing.

"I think the interests are of significantly different weight in the Gulf," he replied.

Mr. Murphy called the increase in the number of U.S. warships in the Gulf significant and admitted that when President Reagan first ordered the tanker escort operation, the administration thought it could do the job with only a moderate increase in naval strength.

The Iranian navy commander said a U.S. naval vessel might have been damaged in the crash, but gave no details.

In Washington, Pentagon spokesman Greg McGuckin said: "We are missing no American military helicopters.

"An American military helicopter has not been involved in any accident," he added.

Pan Am hijack trial delayed

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa's biggest wage strike conditions for its members.

An estimated 11,000 strikers have already been fired and over the weekend groups of sacked miners trekked from the gold belt to homes in impoverished tribal homelands or to neighbouring black states.

At Randfontein, west of Johannesburg, departing miners raised clenched fists and sang songs of the banned African National Congress (ANC) organisation, the main black nationalist group fighting to topple the white-led government.

The Anglo American Mining conglomerate said it will fire 16,000 men on four of its gold pits if they do not report for work Monday morning.

"The men have decided not to accept the ultimatum," NUM Assistant General Secretary Marcel Golding told reporters.

The NUM, the largest union in the country, ordered the nationwide strike by some 300,000 workers to back demands for higher pay and improved working

conditions for its members.

The mining industry accounts for more than 60 per cent of South Africa's export income.

The Labour Monitoring Group (LMG), independent experts who monitor the labour scene, estimated three of the biggest houses had now lost a total of 190 million rand (\$95 million) in pre-tax profits.

An LMG report said it was probably now costing the three companies — Anglo, Gencor and Johannesburg Consolidated Investments — more in lost profits than would cost to meet the NUM's wage demands.

Golding said the NUM had not expected the dispute to last two weeks. "There is no predicting how long it is going to take now," he said.

"Management has tried a spate of different tactics, lockouts, dismissals and distributing pamphlets with false information, but support for the strike has held up."

INTERNATIONAL MARKETING AND TRADING COMPANY (MITCO)

Israel developing nuclear missile warheads — report

LONDON (Agencies) — Israel is developing a nuclear warhead for a missile that can reach Arab capital cities, London's weekly *Observer* reported Sunday, citing unidentified "intelligence sources in Washington."

The report said the missile, known as Jericho, was test-fired with a warhead from Israel's Negev Desert into the Mediterranean Sea on May 16. It flew nearly 1,000 kilometres and has a potential range of 1,500 kilometres, the report said.

The weekly said Israel did not need to explode the warhead to test it because the development is being conduct with the help of computer simulation, which calculates the characteristics of nuclear explosions.

Developing without testing "also allows a government to maintain secrecy," the newspaper said.

The U.S./National Security Agency eavesdropped on the test flight and estimates Israel has

between 45 and 65 Jericho missiles, the *Observer* said.

The newspaper said: "The military significance of the missiles is that Israel will soon be able to hit Arab capitals, including Baghdad, with missiles fired from its own territory that are capable of carrying either conventional or nuclear weapons."

Israel has said virtually nothing about the highly classified Jericho and has never confirmed that it possesses nuclear weapons," the *Observer* said.

In Tel Aviv, a Defence Ministry spokesman declined comment on the new report.

The weekly said attention will be focused on Israel's nuclear programme when Mordechai Vanunu, a former atomic energy

Israel deploys riot police in Sabbath cinema wars

TEL AVIV (R) — Religious Jews went on the warpath in two cities during another uneasy Sabbath in what has become known as the war of the cinemas.

Angry ultra-orthodox Jews, protesting at what they say is desecration of the Jewish holy day by film screenings, beat two journalists in Haifa, and in Jerusalem 1,000 police in riot gear with water cannon kept religious militants from marching on cinemas.

The unrest is the latest in a long-standing dispute between secular Jews, demanding more entertainment on their day of rest and their observant co-religionists who say any commercial activity violates a sacred commandment to keep the day holy.

Although there have been clashes between the two groups in Haifa and Petah Tikvah, near Tel Aviv, the centre of the dispute has been Jerusalem. In Tel Aviv, cinemas, pubs and discotheques serve revellers throughout the Sabbath.

Arafat sacks representative in Lebanon

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has dismissed his top representative in Lebanon following the murder of one of his loyalists in factional fighting, Palestinian sources said.

They said Zeid Webb was

sacked and had been called out of Lebanon for consultations on the death of Raseem Al Ghoul, 38, a victim of friction between factions loyal to Arafat and pro-Syrian group.

A Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) spokesman said earlier that Ghoul, abducted two days ago near the big Ain Al Hilweh refugee camp east of Sidon, was shot dead. His body was found Saturday.

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technician, goes on trial in Tel Aviv for espionage and treason. The trial is scheduled to begin Aug. 30, the newspaper said.

Vanunu claimed in British newspapers last year that Israel was secretly producing nuclear weapons and had the world's third largest nuclear arsenal.

Vanunu disappeared from London last Sept. 30 and turned up in Israeli custody. He later told reporters he was abducted from Rome after flying from London.

The Observer said Vanunu's brother, Meir, who is in London, will ask Britain for political asylum.

It said Meir Vanunu made his decision after Israel issued a warrant for his arrest. The warrant came after Meir Vanunu said his brother was lured from London to Rome by a woman agent of Mossad, the Israeli security service.

Last month, the Geneva-based Defence Review monthly reported a Jericho test had been

carried out in May.

It said the missile would be tested again soon at a range of 1,450 kilometres, a distance that would cover both distant Arab capitals and key Soviet naval bases on the Black Sea.

The Observer said warhead development is being carried out by computers that calculate the characteristics of nuclear explosions, obviating the need to detonate a test weapon.

The Defence Review report drew a strong reaction from Moscow, which beamed Hebrew-language broadcasts at Israel warning development of the Jericho II amounted to a nuclear challenge to the Soviet Union.

Israel Foreign Minister Shimon Peres dismissed the accusation but declined to confirm or deny Israel was making the mis-

'Iran-Syria deal may have freed Glass'

NEW YORK (R) — American journalist Charles Glass, who said he escaped from kidnappers in Beirut, may in fact have been released as a result of a secret deal between Syria and Iran, U.S. News and World Report has said.

The news magazine quoted intelligence sources in the region as saying the release of Glass, who was held hostage for 62 days, was one of several topics taken up at recent high-level talks between Syria and Iran.

It said Syrian President Hafez Al Assad was angered when a group linked to Iran kidnapped Glass last June 17 because he was the only hostage taken since Mr. Assad ordered Syrian troops in Beirut last February to keep order in the city.

The intelligence sources were quoted as saying Iran agreed to tell its adherents to free Glass after Mr. Assad assured Tehran he had not planned a raid against pro-Iranian Shi'ite Muslim strongholds in south Beirut.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Dudin reviews Bethlehem plans with mayor

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin conferred here Sunday with the mayor of occupied town Bethlehem, Elias Freij. They discussed projects being implemented by Bethlehem Municipality, as well as plans for undertaking other programmes to service city residents.

Australian envoy praises peace efforts

AMMAN (Petra) — Australian Ambassador to Jordan Terry Goggin Sunday voiced his country's appreciation of Jordan's efforts to arrive at a durable and just settlement to the Middle East problem through an international peace conference in which all concerned parties can meet under United Nations auspices. The ambassador was speaking at a meeting with Foreign Ministry Secretary General Nabil Al Nimer, where he also reviewed developments in the Gulf conflict and the implementation of the U.N. Security Council resolution 598 aimed at ending the seven-year-old war between Iran and Iraq.

Jordan attends central bank meetings

TUNIS (Petra) — Jordan is taking part in the meetings of the Central Bank Governors Council and of heads of monetary institutions in Arab countries which began here Sunday. Participants are discussing a project prepared by the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) for financing inter-Arab trade, in addition to working papers on the role of Arab central and commercial banks and in financing Arab exports. During their two-day meetings, participants will also discuss the latest developments and monetary policies of member states, and means of developing Arab financial markets. Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Hussein Al Qasem is heading Jordan's delegation to these meetings.

Liquor stores, bars to close for holiday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin announced Sunday that all liquor stores, night clubs, and bars will be closed throughout the capital and its suburbs as of Monday evening until Wednesday morning. This measure will be taken in respect for the New Hijri Islamic year which begins Tuesday, Aug. 25. Similar orders were issued Sunday by provincial governors to stores and clubs in their districts. Tuesday has been declared a public holiday with all government offices and public institutions closed to mark the holy occasion which will be observed by religious ceremonies in Jordanian mosques.

Petra head leaves for info meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The director general of the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Ali Al Safadi, left Sunday for Tunis at the head of Jordan's delegation at the meetings of the Permanent Arab Information Committee which begins today. The committee will discuss issues related to joint Arab information action and will submit its recommendations to Arab information ministers who will meet in Tunis Thursday.

Iraq, Jordan discuss Gulf war

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Taha Muhamed Ma'rouf received here Sunday Jordan's ambassador to Baghdad, Helmi Al Lawzi. During the meeting, they reviewed existing bilateral relations. Mr. Ma'rouf praised His Majesty King Hussein's supportive stand with Iraq in its just war against the Iranian aggression. He also paid tribute to His Majesty's efforts aimed at achieving Arab unity and solidarity.

Organ, chorale concert at St. Mary's

By Jean-Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — On Tuesday, Aug. 25, at 8:00 p.m., a concert of chorale music will be given by organist Keith Chapman and the Church of the Saviour Chorale at St. Mary's of Nazareth Church.

Amman has already hosted concerts of virtually all styles during the past decade, from rock to classical, but Tuesday's event is probably the first of its kind in Jordan.

Dr. Chapman and the accompanying 30-member chorale, conducted by Irvin S. Yeaworth Jr.,

come from Philadelphia in the U.S. They are on a tour of the Middle East which will take them to Jerusalem where, in addition to accomplishing their pilgrimage, they will also perform at the Dormition Abbey, Mount Zion on Aug. 29.

Dr. Chapman is one of America's organ virtuosos and is the head organist of the Philadelphia Wanamaker Grand Court Organ, the largest musical instrument in the world. He began his musical studies at the tender age of five, and eventually received a doctorate in music.

Dr. Chapman has attained an international reputation, and a

performing and recording career. The Church of the Saviour Chorale is one of the best known in Philadelphia. Led by Irvin S. Yeaworth, also a television producer, the ensemble presents regular concerts especially at Christmas, for audiences of thousands. Entitled "Candlelight Christmas," these yearly concerts include traditional carols, along with contemporary music.

The programme will feature works by major composers of chorale music, from the 16th to the 20th century, including works by Bach. Both performances, in Amman and Jerusalem, are for charity.

Umm Qais to host cultural fete

AMMAN (J.T.) — An international cultural festival will be held in April in the historical site of Umm Qais in Irbid Governorate in an effort to restore and promote this archaeological site, Irbid Governor Akram Al Naser announced here.

The festival, he said, will commemorate the famous ancient Greek poet, Meleagros, who was born and brought up in Umm Qais.

Greek culture minister, Melina Merkouri, will be invited to this festival.

According to Dr. Masri, male and female apprentices can get training in mechanical, electrical, construction, and agricultural trades, and also in hotel work, typing, child care, dress making, and secretarial work.

He explained that the courses are for three years. Two years will be spent by the trainees at the VTC workshops and at a selected number of factories and privately owned workshops, while the third year will be spent outside the VTC workshops.

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Drawing the line

WE WELCOME the call by an Arab League committee to place the question of "international terrorism" and legitimate national resistance struggle before the world and let the international community draw a distinct line between the two. The call comes at a time when the Arab image in the West is becoming increasingly tainted with the label of terrorism, prompted by the Zionist movement, to mask the legitimacy of the Palestinian struggle against Israel's occupation. As His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan pointed out in a speech to the Council of Europe in January this year, terrorism is not confined to one nation or a group of nations. It has become apparent in the Middle East because of the complex nature of long-term injustices and frustrations.

The Israeli propaganda machine has grabbed the more pronounced nature of violence in the Middle East and used it as a tool to create an Arab image so closely linked with "terrorism" that the world now looks for "Arab" connections with every bullet that is fired or grenade that explodes anywhere in the world. Prolongation of this state of affairs could only be detrimental to the cause of peace in the Middle East, since the main thrust of terrorism is aimed at intimidating the international community into inaction so that the impasse may continue and fester. A middle ground, where terrorism for the sake of terrorism and violence as part of a national struggle for freedom and independence are clearly defined, has to be found and nurtured.

The Arab League committee's call, made at the conclusion of a meeting in Damascus last week, is as good a starting point as any towards achieving this end. The call enshrines a proposal to convene an international conference to discuss the issue. The idea of developing an internationally agreed upon distinction between pure acts of wanton terrorism and resistance attacks against occupying powers should, in normal circumstances, raise hopes of all concerned for reaching a fair assessment of violence in the world today. But the fact that the Western world, led by the United States, has its own set of standards to make such an assessment can only generate scepticism over the possibility of reaching a fair international judgement.

At the same time, we hope that the Arab World, drawing on its close links and common identity with the rest of the developing world, will be able to steer a course away from interference and reveal to the world the realities of the so-called phenomenon of "Arab terrorism."

All such efforts should also seek to unveil and highlight the extent of state terrorism practised by Israel in response to acts of national resistance by the Palestinians. The thrust of the endeavours should be to wake up the Western world from its slumber to the ugly face of systematic oppression practised by the Jewish state.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: In pursuit of Arab solidarity

PRIME Minister Zaid Rifai paid a brief working visit to Damascus Saturday in the course of the ongoing Jordanian-Syrian consultations and joint endeavours for formulating a unified Arab stand with regard to the current developments in the region. The visit was also seen as a manifestation of efforts by Jordan and Syria to enhance their strong relations and their cooperation in different fields. Needless to say, the fast-moving developments and the new challenges in the Arab area are gaining momentum while the Arab Nation goes through a very critical and dangerous stage. This situation requires the utmost degree of coordination among Arab states and close cooperation for the sake of confronting the common threats. Jordan has been clearly manifesting its pan-Arab commitment and its adherence to the Arab causes in all its contacts with Arab countries. This country has continuously been working to build bridges of confidence among Arab capitals and seeking a genuine solidarity among Arab people everywhere, and has been rewarded with favourable response by Arab leaders. For this reason one can only hope that the Arabs will now join hands and undertake joint action designed to abort all enemy conspiracies and plots. There can be no substitute for solidarity and joint action for the Arabs if they want to regain their rights and protect their national interests.

Al Dustour: Serving the Arab cause

PRIME Minister Zaid Rifai's visit to Damascus and his meeting with President Hafez Al Assad can only be described as another move to bolster inter-Arab relations in general and Jordanian-Syrian ties in particular. The visit and the meetings represent a renewed desire on the part of Syria and Jordan to seek genuine solidarity among Arab countries and to seek a greater measure of cooperation for the benefit of the Arab Nation at large. There is no doubt that the present circumstances through which the Arab Nation is passing add importance and significance to consultations between the leaderships in Damascus and Amman. The absence of inter-Arab coordination and cooperation in the past led to weakness and to disarray in the ranks of the Arab Nation. Jordan is aware of the dangers that loom in the offing, and for this reason has been striving with all its might to re-establish solidarity among Arab countries. This has been done through a series of meetings with Arab countries and through visits at the highest level. Jordanian-Syrian relations are unique because both countries shoulder serious responsibilities in confrontation with the Israeli enemy along extended frontlines. We regard the ongoing meetings between Amman and Damascus as steps towards serving the Arab cause.

Sawt Al Shaab: Common goals and drive

PRIME Minister Zaid Rifai's visit to Damascus Saturday is part of Jordan's ongoing policy of bolstering Jordanian-Arab relations as instructed by King Hussein to achieve the greatest possible degree of coordination and cooperation among Arab states. Rifai's talks with the Syrian leaders are part of these consultations and are bound to lead to further coordination among the two neighbouring states. The talks were designed to bolster Jordanian-Syrian cooperation because the two countries have the same aims and objectives on the political, social and economic fields. The two countries have a common goal of re-establishing solidarity among Arab states in the face of common threats and common challenges to the Arab Nation. They both ought to coordinate their steps in the face of these threats and also in efforts to make the foreign ministers meeting in Tunis achieve success. The talks which Rifai held with the Syrian leaders complement those initiated by King Hussein on his visits to the Syrian capital.

Gulf linkage diminishes prospects of freedom for hostages

By Hala Jaber
Reuter

BEIRUT — Prospects for the release of five Western hostages in Lebanon dimmed after their pro-Iranian kidnappers explicitly linked their fate to 17 Arabs jailed in Kuwait, according to militia sources.

"Those hostages are stuck ... the Kuwaitis are not going to free the prisoners just to please Iran, especially now that Iran is threatening them in the Gulf," a senior militia source said.

The 17 Arabs were convicted of bombing U.S., French and Kuwaiti buildings in the emirate in 1983 and Kuwait has refused to discuss releasing them.

But the sources said negotiations were progressing for the freedom of three other hostages: British church envoy Terry Waite and West Germans Alfred Schmidt and Rudolf Cordes.

The Islamic Jihad group, which has held two U.S. and three French hostages for more than two years, stressed the Kuwait connection in a statement on Friday.

It was accompanied by a videotape of two French hostages. Journalist Jean-Paul Kauffmann read a prepared statement saying: "France and Kuwait are friendly countries. Why haven't they been attempting at overtures? ... if our government remains immobile, you may not see me again."

Islamic Jihad threatened to "mistrust" its hostages if Kuwait did not supply filmed interviews with the Arab prisoners within 15 days to prove their well-being.

Diplomats in Kuwait said the emir was unlikely to supply the film or show any sign of flexibility.

A link between the hostages and the prisoners in Kuwait was also brought out by Iran's parliamentary speaker, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, on Thursday when he suggested swapping hostages for Shi'ite prisoners held in Israel and Kuwait.

Washington flatly rejected the proposal, apparently prompting the Islamic Jihad statement.

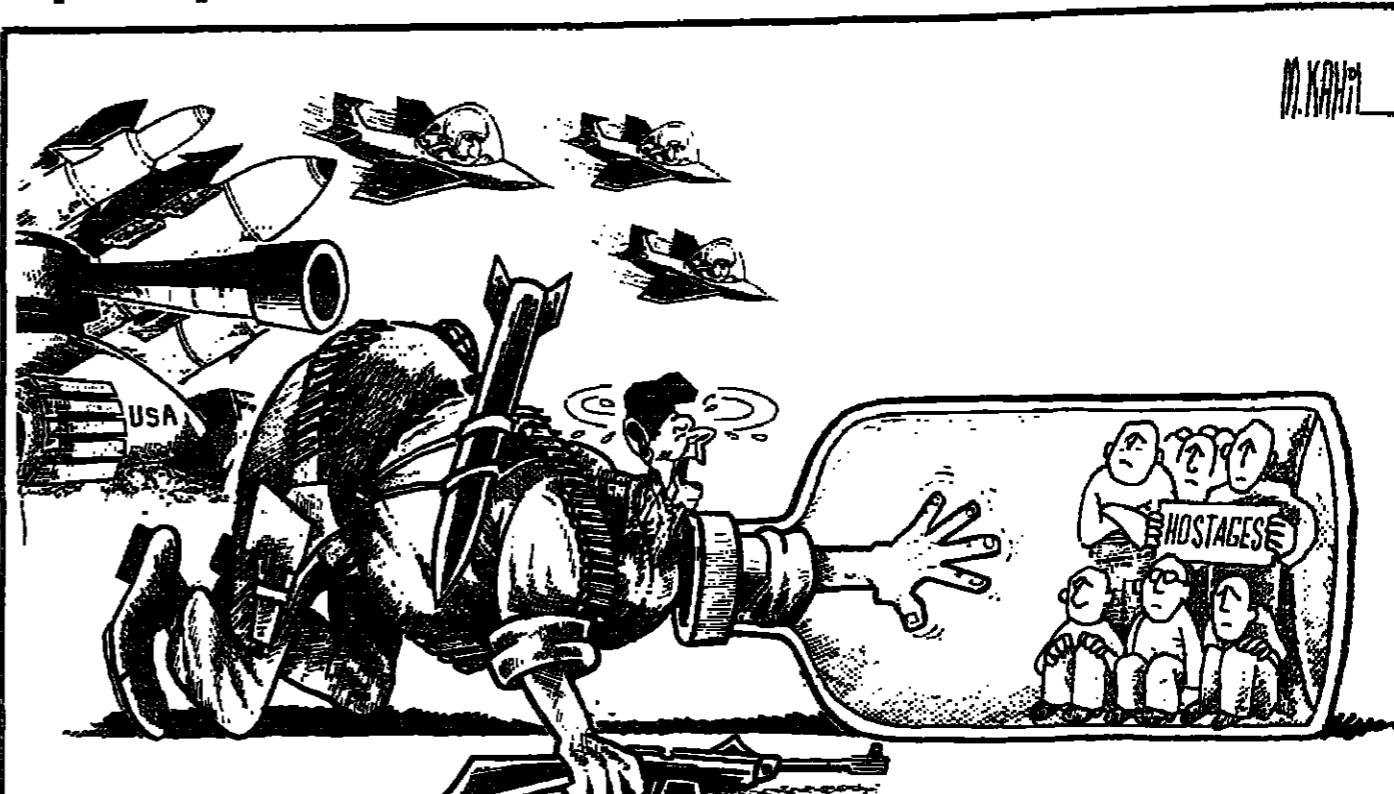
"The big satan America and its tool France both insist on not solving this issue, despite their knowledge it will not be solved unless the prisoners are released," the group said.

Islamic Jihad broke a five-month silence about its hostages in late July after Paris broke diplomatic relations with Tehran and Iran-Western tensions rose in the Gulf.

It has since issued three statements. Political sources said the aim was to put pressure on Kuwait, to try to stop France sending arms to Iraq and to remind Washington and Paris of the potential risk of their hostages if Iran was attacked.

Islamic Jihad holds Kauffmann, French diplomats Marcel Carton and Marcel Fontaine. American journalist Terry Anderson and U.S. academic Thomas Sutherland.

Militia sources say Islamic Jihad is a name used by Shi'ite clans linked to the Iran-backed Hezbollah (Party of God) and is close to groups holding other hostages among the 28 foreigners missing and believed kidnapped



in Lebanon.

The weekly Al Sharaa magazine said Terry Waite might be freed for a \$5 million ransom.

Waite disappeared in Muslim West Beirut on Jan. 20 and is believed to be held by pro-Iranian extremists.

In London, a spokesman for

the Church of England said it knew nothing of a deal to buy Waite's freedom.

Al Sharaa also said it expected the imminent release of West Germans Cordes and Schmidt as a result of the Syrian pressures on Iran which it said led to the

escape on Tuesday of U.S. hostage Charles Glass.

Cordes and Schmidt, seized by pro-Iranian Shi'ites in January, are being held hostage against two Shi'ite Lebanese detained in West Germany, one of whom is charged with murder and hijacking a TWA airliner to Beirut in

1985. Syrian businessman Omar Adham, involved in talks to free the hostages, has said that Damascus engineered the release of Glass and predicted that other foreign hostages would be freed soon.

Thought of Hart return to race shakes Democratic wagon

By Laurence McQuillan
Reuter

WASHINGTON — The thought of Gary Hart resurrecting his presidential campaign has generated an uproar within the Democratic Party, with anger and suspicion rising among those gearing up for the 1988 presidential election.

Hart, formerly front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination, dropped out of the race on May 8 after allegations of a sexual tryst with blonde Miami model Donna Rice.

The latest uproar stems from the comments of Bill Dixon, Hart's former campaign manager, who said it was "possible and perhaps even probable" that Senator Hart will re-enter the presidential race "within two months with a limited campaign."

Hart, who was vacationing in Ireland, initially denied comeback plans but later told reporters he had no comment.

Others were not so reticent.

Gardine Ferraro, the Democratic vice-presidential candidate in 1984, publicly warned Hart he could only succeed if "the American voters have a short memory."

"It isn't that short," she said on U.S. television. "If he were to get back into this race I would question his sanity."

Ohio Senator John Glenn, who battled Hart and other Democrats in 1984 for the presidential nomination, said: "I don't think any candidate can be on again, off again, particularly having gone through some of the trauma Gary's been through."

Congresswoman Patricia Schroeder, a former Hart supporter from her home state of Colorado who is considering her own presidential candidacy, snapped that if Hart does return, "he's on his man."

Democratic Party insiders declined to discuss the situation in public, but in private they were seething.

Others were not so reticent.

"We've just gotten to the point of passing the seven dwarfs lookalike image," said one party professional, referring to the relatively low recognition level of the Democratic candidates now in the field.

"A return by him now would overshadow the others with an obviously failed campaign. He's not going anywhere."

Grumbled another: "It just can't do us any good. I would guess that Donna Rice would be elated by a return. It would help her publicity tour, but it sure won't help us any."

Jody Powell, a strategist in Jimmy Carter's bid for the White House, echoed suspicions expressed by several political analysts that Hart might be seeking \$1 million to pay off debts incurred by his campaign before it folded.

His withdrawal disqualified him from federal funding under which candidates are given a dollar by the government for every dollar raised privately.

Hart had raised \$1 million by the time he quit and had since pleaded, unsuccessfully, with the Federal Election Commission to match that amount. If he re-entered the race he would be immediately eligible for matching funds.

"One of the first things that immediately came to my mind was that he might come back because the FEC ruled he was ineligible for matching funds," Powell said.

It had been suggested that Hart might return to the fray with a skeleton campaign crew of a handful of people and wait to see how much support rallies around.

That in itself would raise major questions about his ultimate intentions.

In the 1988 presidential race, with crucial early tests among voters in states thousands of kilometres apart, a serious bid requires a large staff and millions of dollars in funding.

For Hart, that poses major obstacles. Most members of his once huge and highly skilled staff scattered among the other presidential contenders when Hart dropped out.

Contributors are reluctant to waste donations on useless campaigns, making it difficult to lure money for a limited effort.



Hong Kong police escort a group of Vietnamese refugees to a boat for transfer to a refugee centre

Influx of Vietnamese strains Hong Kong-China relations

By William Kazer
Reuter

southern provinces Guangdong, Guangxi and Fujian.

Hong Kong government officials said rumours of quick resettlement in Western countries led to the sudden exodus.

They said there was no evidence of Chinese government complicity but some Vietnamese arriving here said local authorities knew they were leaving but did not try to stop them.

A Hong Kong newspaper quoted Xu Jiatusheng, China's most senior representative in the colony and chief of the local branch of the New China News Agency, as saying that Peking had ordered local authorities to stop the refugees coming.

Simon Sit, a senior Hong Kong official for refugees, said that the main issue in the Canton talks was whether China would cooperate with the colony on immediate repatriation.

Refugees must be identified and that process can take up to a year. Hong Kong legislators have called on the government to ask Peking to place refugees in detention centres in China until they are identified — rather than have them wait here.

"We would have removed the attraction which seemed to have motivated some of these people to come," said Hong Kong legislator Rita Fan.

The influx has subsided in the

last few days but it may prove difficult to staunch the flow.

Though the Vietnamese are not starving, life on a Chinese state farm is hard. Many complain of low pay and rising prices.

"I'd rather be locked up in a camp for one year than work like a buffalo here," said 45-year-old Yu Guangsheng, a Vietnamese living at a state farm not far from Canton.

Many live close enough to Hong Kong to watch its television programmes, which provide a glimpse of the colony's prosperous lifestyle and a dramatic contrast with rural China.

One Vietnamese youth at a state farm in Fujian I visited last December told me he had sneaked into the nearby Portuguese territory of Macao once — only to be caught and sent back — and that Hong Kong might be his next destination.

The walls of his spartan home were adorned with posters of the colony's skyline and its latest pop stars.

"I wanted to go to Hong Kong all along but our boat hit a rock. We had to land in China," he said.

With thousands of Vietnamese nearby and looking for a better way of life, few people in Hong Kong expect the refugee problem to go away.

Afrikaner fractures are widening under anti-apartheid pressures

By Marcus Eliason
The Associated Press

PRETORIA — Fractures are widening in the ranks of the Afrikaners. Dutch-descended whites who dominate South Africa's political and social life

The split that began six years ago in politics has eaten into cultural organisations, the church and now into next year's celebration of the 150th anniversary of the most momentous event in Afrikaner history — the "Great Trek."

Efforts to organise a joint commemoration have broken down, and so the anniversary of the 1838 northward flight by ox-wagon from British rule that moulded the Dutch colonials into a nation, is to be marked next year by separate celebrations.

"The split has come full circle,"

said Professor Willem Kleynhans, an Afrikaner. "I don't think there's a single Afrikaner organisation that hasn't split."

At first the National Party dismissed the rebels as a fringe group. Then the cleavage spread to cultural organisations that defend Afrikanerdom against the encroachments of English culture.

In June, the Afrikaners... drive Mercedes Benzes, enjoy good living, foreign travel, good books and restaurants," wrote John MacLennan in the Sunday Star newspaper. "They are conversant with alien political ideas and they have thrived in business, university life and a host of professions."

"Many of today's Afrikaners... drive Mercedes Benzes, enjoy good living, foreign travel, good books and restaurants," wrote John MacLennan in the Sunday Star newspaper. "They are conversant with alien political ideas and they have thrived in business, university life and a host of professions."

An even stronger brand of liberalism is reflected by the 52 Afrikaner intellectuals who went

to Dakar, Senegal, in July to talk to the African National Congress, the black guerrilla movement fighting to overthrow white rule in South Africa.

One reason for the ferment is that Afrikaner, once cast as rural inferiors of South Africa's English settlers, have gained self-confidence.

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"At the same time, unlike Afrikaner's other white colonisers



A personal computer with two keyboards — one for typing and the other for music

Computerised music — a linkage of an oldest art and today's technology

By Jean-Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

IN AN astonishing move, music making, one of man's oldest activities, is finding itself closely linked to the most modern and fast developing field, computers. The surprise is only apparent. For, if music is unquestionably an art, its mathematical structure is also a sound fact. In a similar way, though less obvious, computer programming is a science and a technique where art is often involved, depending on the nature and the final application of the programme.

Music is made of sounds. These can be very accurately defined in terms of frequency, harmonics, air pressure, duration, envelope, etc. The rhythmic structure of a musical piece can also be clearly defined. This set of information (data) can be entered and stored in the memory of a computer which can not only reproduce them but also the possibility to "generate," more music based on the same data it has "assimilated," but with variations. These variations come from the person giving discrete orders to the computer by programming or by direct commands via a keyboard, or from mathematical formulas, or even at random, in which case some would say that the computer is "composing" music.

Attempts to feed music data into computers started some 25 years ago in the west and east coasts of the USA. Early synthesizers made by Robert Moog, based on analog electronic circuitry, are museum pieces when compared

with today's modern digital ones. One of the most successful performances on the Moog synthesizer was Wendy Carlos' "Switched-on Bach" in 1968. However, as interesting as it might have been, the old synthesizer has a major weakness: with its limited analog electronics, it could only imitate, to a certain extent (sometimes awfully), natural sounds. It did not have the possibility to memorise the natural, the real sound. In this respect the Moog machine has little to do with today's computerised systems.

Recently, with the availability of extremely fast electronic chips, some of them can store up to one million characters a piece, computers and digital synthesizers have been able to "sample" and memorise natural sounds. Sampling consists of recording the natural sound, of an acoustic piano for instance, in the memory of a digital device such as a computer, a sampler or a synthesizer. Subsequently the device allows the performer to reproduce piano sound without the need for the real piano anymore. Perfecting the sampling technique has led to the now well known compact or laser disc.

Although digital recording still requires a storage capacity well beyond the capacity of a simple personal computer, it will probably be at the reach of home recordists at the turn of the next decade. The very possibility to store music in a computer memory opens a whole new world of creativity for the musicians. Editing becomes much simpler with

digital devices. What used to take expensive and sophisticated studio recorders (and expensive sound engineers...) can now be done better, faster on computers.

A major benefit with digital devices is the non-degradation of the sound through the editing and manipulation processes. For example, that if a regular cassette tape is duplicated three or four times, the fourth copy will have much more distortion and noise than the first one. With digital recording even the millionth copy would keep the characteristics of the first one. Mixing, dubbing, multi-tracking and other recording techniques can be achieved with near perfection. Some music editing tasks that were impossible on traditional analog devices can now be performed on computers.

Digital synthesizers based on computer structure have been on the market for five years now. Their price range makes them available even to the non professional musician. Some of them have built-in recording facility. They can also be interfaced with actual computers for more features. They can even be interfaced with each other. The industry has set a standard for these communications needs between digital instruments and computers, the music instrument digital interface (MIDI). The possibilities of MIDI are hard to believe. With powerful yet inexpensive tools, drawbacks are unavoidable. Poor quality computerised keyboards are available for less than JD 80. Although considered as toys, they can do much harm to the ears of young promising musicians who find them easy to make noise with. Another aspect of the problem is the number of musicians who think that anyone owning a digital musical device can make good music. As extraordinary as they can be, they are only instruments or tools, and in the end, it takes a musician, a real human being, to make music.

Making up for lost time in Arabian art

By Hartmut Binder

THE first exhibition of Southern Arabian culture, from pre-historical times to the present, has been opened at the State Ethnological Museum in Munich.

The exhibition includes some of the most important artworks from the Yemen and excellent examples of Yemeni art that have had to be collected from all over the world.

Until recently the Yemen has been a very inaccessible country. The artefacts of its civilisation have not found their way into European and American museums as have artworks from Iran or the early history of the empires that developed in present-day Turkey.

Even today it is an adventurous undertaking to get to know about the country and its political set-up. The north of the region, where the most important historical buildings are to be found, has been closed to European influence most of this century so that this area is one of the poorest and least developed regions of the world.

In 1962 there was revolution and civil war that lasted seven years.

The result was that the region was divided into two independent states, the smaller, but much more populous Yemen Arab Republic in the north, with its capital in Sana'a, and the Yemen People's Democratic Republic dependent on the Soviet Union, in the south, with Aden as its capital. The British occupied Aden in 1859.

Museum officials in Munich have had to make contact with the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, the British Museum, London, the Louvre in Paris, the Art-history Museum in Vienna, the National Museum in Sana'a and the Museum of Islamic Art in Berlin to be able to gather together representative exhibits for their Yemeni art exhibition.

From an academic point of view there was a lot of catching-up to be done to gather information about Southern Arabian art and history.

Only over the past 20 years has the location and the real appearance of the ancient Southern Arabian inscriptions been known on which the chronology of the region's pre-history is based.

The dam at Marib, the most important technical construction in the whole of the Ancient World, has only been investigated over the past six years by German experts with support from the Volkswagen Foundation.

Based on this research the exhibition's punchy second title appears in an unfavourable light, "5,000 years of Art and Culture in Fortunate Arabia." It implies that the Yemen, as a cradle of civilisation, is comparable to other ancient oriental cultures, a civilisation in which the monumental culture of the people originated in the 10th century B.C.

Investigations have shown that the dam was used without interruption for a period of 1,100 years, so that it must have been built at the end of the 6th century B.C.

This has vindicated Jacqueline Pirenne's view totally. The compilers of the accompanying guide, who got to know about these reassessments in plenty of time, accepted this new dating and have used it although they have in some instances flunked the issue of precise dating.

Nonetheless, visitors will not bother themselves to much with chronology when they see the bronze statues, alabaster busts and the Aleppo stones, certainly in memory of the dead, all over 2,000 years old, on show in the exhibition.

The really interested visitor will be concerned with other things. Primarily with the reconstructed bazaar of the present, covering a thousand metres, a perfect reconstruction of the Sug of At-Tawila, made possible by the synthetic material styropor. This is much more authentic than anything that has been done previously.

When did the Marib Dam originate? Or the larger-than-life

sculptures in stone and metal, the huge religious buildings with porticos made of heavy monolithic pillars, plain buildings dominated by cubic geometrical designs in sharp contrast to the sense of space of later Islamic art.

French orientalist Jacqueline Pirenne has for decades cast doubt on the early dating of the Sabaeans period that has been used for many years by German experts.

She refers to inscriptions, coins, the comments of ancient writers, economic history and observations of similarities in artistic and architectural history, and comes to the conclusion that the surviving Sabean buildings and works of art are not earlier than the 5th century B.C. as has been believed until now, but originated from a period at the earliest contemporary with the golden age of classical Greece, which in fact had some artistic influence.

Using natural science methods of investigation on the Marib Dam it has been possible to establish more exact dating of the construction.

Based on investigations as yet unpublished, it is possible to say that the dam spanning the river valley, measuring 680 metres in length and 18 metres high, was not built to collect monsoon rainwater that fell twice a year for the intervening periods of drought, but to hold water back for short periods and to raise the level so that it could be channelled through the fields by a complicated distribution system. This unique, short-term flooding was sufficient to produce a harvest.

The system irrigated an area of 9,600 hectares. It is obvious that many centuries of mature technological experience was used, that bears comparison with the technology of this century. The sediment carried by the water meant that the dam had to be continually heightened. This meant that archaeological layers remained undisturbed. These, together with pollen analysis and investigations of heavy metals carried in the waters and other dating methods, have made it possible to draw up a chronology, because the date of the destruction of the dam is known. 575 A.D.

Investigations have shown that the dam was used without interruption for a period of 1,100 years, so that it must have been built at the end of the 6th century B.C.

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When did the Marib Dam originate? Or the larger-than-life



A bronze statue from what is South Yemen today. The statue dates back to either seventh or eighth century B.C.

understanding of the million it all cost.

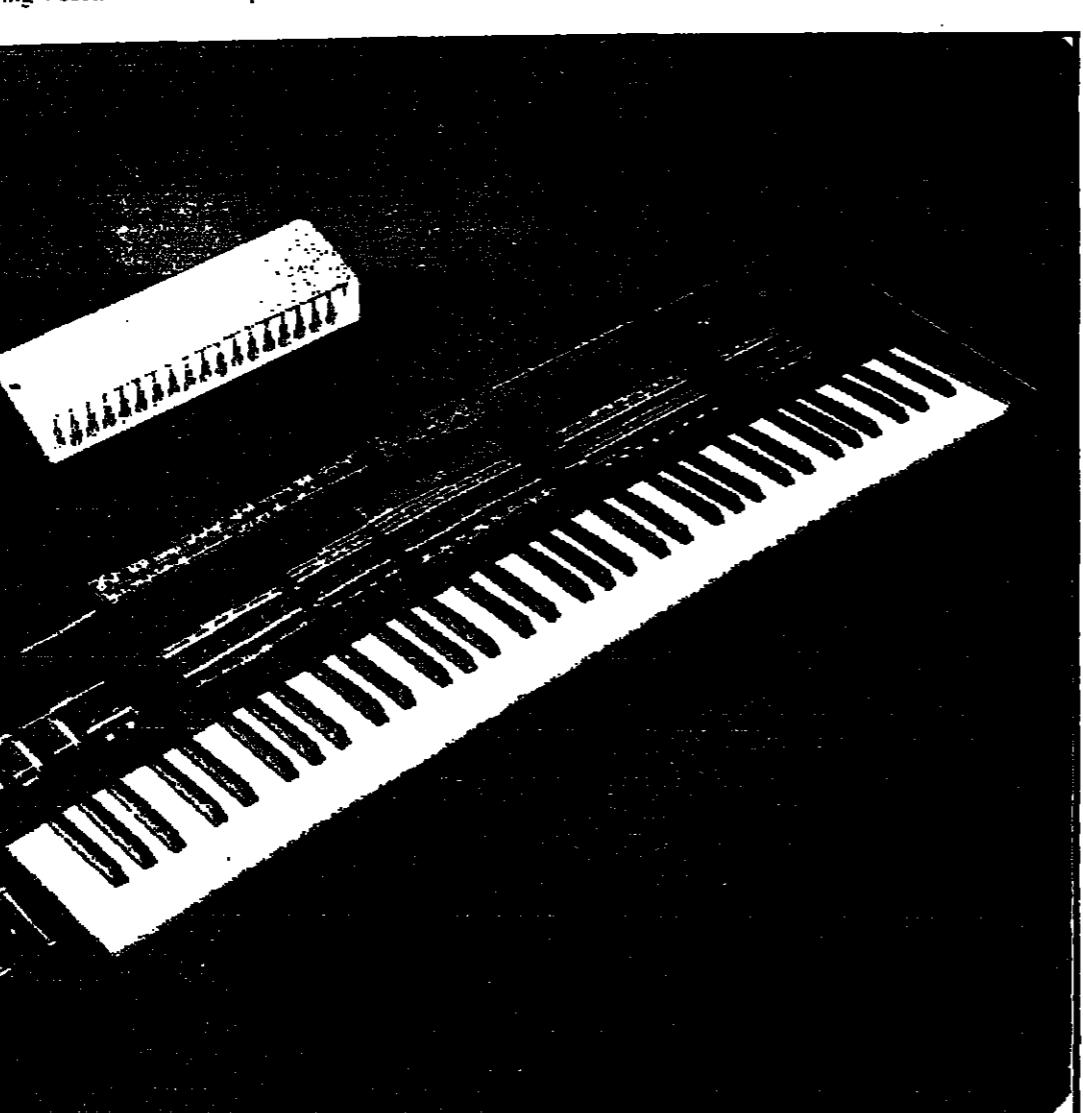
It has been possible to give a total architectural impression. The visitor has the feeling of really wandering through alleys and ways and if one is not careful one stumbles on the clay soil and the litter, deliberately left there.

Looking up from the small market place, one sees antiquated electric cables and coloured-glass windows in the surrounding dwellings.

Certainly the masterworks of Islamic books are a considerable attraction. They are not under any kind of illumination, so as not to damage them, thus good eyesight is called for to appreciate them.

There are examples of work from the Rasulid dynasty (1228-1454) that glaze with light just as much as the many modern earings, armbands, necklaces and bangles.

The exhibition is on display in Munich until the end of this year when it then moves on to Amsterdam and Vienna — Stuttgarter Zeitung



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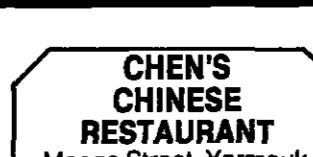
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Kuwait downs Jordan, moves to Asian men's handball quarterfinals

By Rania Atalla
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordanian men's team Sunday lost all hope to move to the finals in the Fourth Asian Handball Championships in a crucial game with Kuwait as they trailed Kuwait 31-12.

As predicted by members of the Jordanian team in an earlier interview with the Jordan Times, the Kuwaiti team moved in a strongly co-ordinated single force to secure a position in the finals. The Jordanian team, although made up of strong "individual" players, could not integrate their skills in a team effort that would have matched the tough competition.

The Jordanian team used a 6:0 formation on the defence, occasionally into a 4:2 when faced with Kuwaiti offensive presses. However, the Kuwaiti team was able to break into their defence securing 31-12 win.

Also on Sunday, the Chinese Taipei men's team lost in a close game to Bahrain with a final score of 26:25 while the Qatar team beat Nepal 41:11.

On the other hand, the Syrian women's team beat the Jordanian team 25:11. Commenting on their performance, Syrian team captain, Samar Klass told the Jordan Times, "we expected to win because the Jordanian team has not been practising as much as we have, there was a difference in our skill level," she said.

By deadline time Sunday the games were still in progress and the results of the men's matches between Japan and Palestine, China and Syria were not yet in. The Japanese women's team beat the Chinese team 35:20. On Saturday, the Korean men's team beat the Chinese Taipei team 42:11 while China beat Syria 40:8.

Kuwait also registered a sweeping victory over Nepal with a final score of 41:6 while the Chinese team found no difficulty in beating the Palestinian team 31:17. On the same day, the Japanese team beat the Syrian team 24:18.

Qatar and Jordan also met on Saturday in a game that ended with a tie of 23:23. The Jordanian team played a tough game, using a 3:3 formation on the offensive and a 6:0 and 5:1 on the defensive. But the repeated mistakes and the fouls committed by the players affected the cohesion of the Jordanian defence enabling the team to register a victory over their opponents.

Ex-French racer reported killed in boat race

POOLE, England (AP) — Former French Formula One racing driver Didier Pironi was killed Sunday during an international powerboat race off the Isle of Wight, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) reported.

In a radio report, the BBC said Pironi was among three Frenchmen who died when their boat, the Colibri, overturned in the third leg of the 280-kilometre race.

Police and race organisers con-

firmed that three French competitors had been killed but said they could not immediately identify the victims.

The organiser, the Royal Motor Yacht Club in Poole, said the Colibri was one of 60 boats that had entered the offshore event, the Dennis Trophy Race, from a variety of countries including Britain, France, Italy, Monaco and Sweden.

"Pironi was listed as one of the crew members of that boat but we

can't say for certain that he was among those who died," said Sally Street, spokeswoman for the club.

"Certainly, this is the first time we have ever had any fatalities in 21 years of this race."

She said race officials did not stop the race after the Colibri capsized.

"There was not much point, because the boats were on their last lap," she said.

Arsenal searches for elusive first victory

LONDON (R) — Over the past three months, Arsenal Manager George Graham has tried and failed to buy Kerry Dixon and David Speedie from Chelsea and Aberdeen's exciting teenage striker Joe Miller.

His bids suggest Graham had serious reservations about pairing the enigmatic Charlie Nicholas with the gangling Alan Smith, his £800,000 (\$1.25 million) acquisition from Leicester.

For despite scoring both goals in Arsenal's 2-1 victory over Liverpool in last season's League Cup final, the name Nicholas could not number among Graham's list of favourite things and the pressure on the Scot appears to be mounting with every passing Saturday.

A 2-0 defeat at Queen's Park Rangers Saturday left Arsenal third from bottom of the First Division with just one point and one goal — scored by midfielder Paul Davis in last week's 2-1

defeat against Liverpool — from three matches.

Since Smith is the most recent arrival at Highbury, Nicholas is obviously the player under threat, and the temperamental Scot could hardly have derived much comfort from Graham's pre-match warning that he was expecting 40 goals from the new partnership.

"I'll try the two of them and see how it goes... if they don't work out I'll bring in someone else," said the pragmatic Graham.

Nicholas, adored on the terraces by the Arsenal fans who appreciate an entertainer, seemed to be trying too hard against QPR and, with Smith sadly out of touch, only goalkeeper John Lukic saved Arsenal from an even more telling defeat.

"I think the first month of any new season is all about trying to lay a foundation," said Graham. "We had a great campaign last

season and I don't think I'll be making any rash statements until the first month is over. Every-body plays it up too much at the beginning."

But Graham's defiant words will find little sympathy among the Arsenal support which would rather see money spent on a creative midfielder who can give Nicholas the service he craves.

Any victory over one of the bigger London clubs is always rapturously received at Loftus Road and to add to QPR's joy their win also took them to the top of the First Division above Nottingham Forest on goal difference.

Though their time as First Division leaders is likely to be brief, younger rangers fans will forever relish the goals from Johnny Byrne and Alan McDonald which accounted for the mighty Arsenal.

OPR Manager Jim Smith was

understandingly delighted and said: "That was an excellent performance. The three games so far

have been very encouraging for us and our four new players have settled in extremely well."

Graham admitted: "I'm disappointed because we're struggling to score goals. We dominated the second half but could not finish."

"We were a bit negative in the first half because the players were anxious about the (artificial) pitch. But I don't want to use that as an excuse."

It was a better day for another Scot, Nicholas' international colleague Brian McClair, who also made his name north of the border with Glasgow Celtic.

The unlikely winners, currently 14th in the league table, took a 1-0 halftime lead through a 30th-minute goal by Uwe Freiler.

Lothar Matthaeus equalised for the Bavarians four minutes into the second half but Bayern continued to look tired and sluggish.

Wolfgang Schaefer penetrated

their defence twice in the second half to take Homburg's score to three

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Ramos: Philippine guerrillas getting weapons from abroad

MANILA (Agencies) — Philippine Communist rebels have acquired modern weapons from overseas and are shifting the focus of their struggle from the countryside to towns and cities, the military has said.

Armed Forces Chief General Fidel Ramos said Saturday most of the Communist New People's Army's (NPA) guns were bought abroad by the rebels' "international commission," led by a former Catholic priest.

"I am talking about modern high-powered firearms," Gen. Ramos told reporters without giving details. The NPA has about 22,000 regular soldiers by army estimates.

Manila newspapers, quoting military sources, have often reported sightings of Soviet ships supposedly landing arms for the rebels in provincial towns and of "Russian advisers" holding

teach-ins among the guerrillas. Soviet embassy and NPA spokesmen have denied the reports.

"That is being checked," Gen. Ramos said, commenting on them.

The NPA has in the past armed itself with weapons captured from the largely U.S.-supplied army.

Gen. Ramos said the military had detected a shift of emphasis" in the NPA's 18-year-old struggle "from the countryside to some urban centres, including Mindanao."

The government this week announced a campaign to bring better social services to rural

areas to reduce support for the rebels.

It added that more than 2,000 rebels surrendered in the first half of this year under a government amnesty and promises of help in finding jobs.

The Manila Journal and Malaya Sunday quoted Ernesto Camino, mayor of the south eastern Mindanao town of Gagwai, as saying a small boat put ashore in Surigao Del Sur province on Aug. 5 and delivered weapons to the NPA's 21st Guerrilla Front, which operates there.

Mr. Camino, who said he was a rebel before his appointment as mayor in August 1986, also told the newspaper that Soviet advisers are training rebels in southern Mindanao.

During the news conference, Gen. Ramos claimed Jose Maria Sison, founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines, and de-

Expelled Soviet official leaves Japan

TOKYO (AP) — Soviet Vice Trade Representative Yuri G. Pokrovsky left Japan Sunday, three days after being ordered out of the country in an exchange of expulsions between Japan and the Soviet Union.

Mr. Pokrovsky left from Tokyo's Narita Airport aboard a Soviet Aeroflot plane, an airline official said.

Japan announced Thursday it was expelling the Soviet official because he had failed to appear for questioning regarding police suspicions that he purchased information about aircraft instruments and controls stolen from a Japanese company.

The announcement of Mr. Pokrovsky's expulsion came shortly after the Soviet Union said it was ordering out a Japanese Defence Attaché, Nobuhiko Takeshima, for alleged espionage activities. It said it also

was expelling a Japanese businessman, Takao Otani, for allegedly trying to obtain commercial secrets from the Soviet Trade Ministry.

Japan's Foreign Ministry denied it was expelling Mr. Pokrovsky in retaliation for the Soviet deportations, and said there was no basis to the Soviet charges against Mr. Takeshima, one of three defence attachés stationed in Moscow.

Mr. Takeshima, the first Japanese diplomat ordered out of the Soviet Union since World War II, is expected to return to Japan sometime this week, news reports said.

Relations between the two countries chilled during the past several months over revelations of a series of alleged illegal transfers of high technology material from Japan to the Soviet Union. In April, the Japanese gov-

Ortega gives no response to meeting with contras

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — The Sandinista government has given no indication that it would be willing to change its long-held position of refusing to meet directly with the contra rebels.

During his weekly Face the People meeting, President Daniel Ortega said the United States continues to support the rebels despite efforts by Central American leaders to bring about a ceasefire in the civil war.

On Friday, the six contra leaders said they would be willing to talk with the Sandinistas, but insisted they would not lay down their arms until Nicaragua is on an "irreversible path to democracy."

The rebels' announcement came after a meeting with President Jose Napoleón Duarte of El Salvador in that nation's capital of San Salvador.

Mr. Duarte suggested that the contras and leftist Salvadoran guerrillas hold simultaneous, but separate, talks Sept. 15 with the governments they oppose.

The Salvadoran guerrillas, who have been waging their own civil war since 1979, agreed to go along with the plan.

The goal is to put ceasefires into effect by Nov. 7 under a peace plan signed in Guatemala on Aug. 7 by Mr. Ortega, Mr. Duarte and the president of Guatemala, Costa Rica and Honduras.

Mr. Ortega said Saturday: "We are waiting for some gesture of

Ministers set up panel to monitor C. American peace accord

CARACAS (R) — Foreign ministers from 13 countries have established a commission to verify compliance with a Central American peace pact.

It includes the foreign ministers of the Contadora group — Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and Panama — and its support group — Argentina, Brazil, Peru and Uruguay — as well as the secretary general of the Organization of American States (OAS) and a senior United Nations official.

The pact, signed two weeks ago in Guatemala City, sets a Nov. 7 deadline for a ceasefire to end regional conflicts that have killed 100,000 people since 1980.

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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHANIF
1986 Trout Woods Series Inc.

CARE COSTS NOTHING

Both vulnerable, South deals:

NORTH	WEST	EAST
♦ Q 5 4	♦ J 9 8 6	♦ 10 3
♦ K 4 3	2	7 A 7 6 5
♦ A 10 5 4	Q J 8 7	9 3
♦ 6 6 4	♦ J 7 5 3	♦ A Q 10 9 2

The bidding:

South West North East

1 Pass 2 C Pass

3 Pass 4 C Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♦

You get no prize for playing fast. While we do not suggest that you play so slowly that you become a drag to the rest of those in the game, you should stop to see whether you are not committing *huri kiri* by choosing a particular line.

North was maximum for his raise to two hearts. Had he had a ruffing value instead of a square hand, he would have been too

strong. So when South made a game try, North accepted quickly.

The defenders got off to an excellent start with West's club lead. East took his ace and returned the suit for declarer to ruff. A trump to the king lost to the ace, and back came another club. Declarer ruffed once more and cashed the queen of trumps. When West showed out, there was no way for declarer to make his contract.

The hand was lost when declarer ruffed the second club. Instead, he should have discarded a diamond — a trick he had to lose. Let's suppose East shifts to a diamond. Declarer wins and draws trumps. Now he will make the contract if spades break 3-3 or if the player with four spades also holds both missing diamond honors or at least four diamonds, as is the case here.

When declarer plays his last trump he will remain with four spades and two diamonds while the table is down to four diamonds and three spades. West must release his guard in one suit or the other and permit the contract to come home.

There's a lot more to this hand. We'll discuss it again tomorrow.

Both vulnerable, South deals:

NORTH	WEST	EAST
♦ Q 5 4	♦ J 9 8 6	♦ 10 3
♦ K 4 3	2	7 A 7 6 5
♦ A 10 5 4	Q J 8 7	9 3
♦ 6 6 4	♦ J 7 5 3	♦ A Q 10 9 2

The bidding:

South West North East

1 Pass 2 C Pass

3 Pass 4 C Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♦

You get no prize for playing fast.

Gorbachev may meet Reagan in September

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev plans to visit the U.N. General Assembly and meet with President Ronald Reagan next month, the Los Angeles Times reported in its Sunday editions.

Mr. Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev could use the meeting as a summit to sign an arms pact if Moscow and Washington can reach an agreement in stalled talks on banning short-and medium-range nuclear missiles, the newspaper said.

If no consensus is reached by late September, Mr. Gorbachev is prepared to come to Washington on a lower-level working visit to personally negotiate an agreement with Mr. Reagan, the newspaper reported.

In Washington, a highly placed U.S. official disputed the report.

The official, speaking on condition of not being identified, told the Associated Press he knew of no direct notification by the Soviets that Mr. Gorbachev planned to attend the U.N. meeting.

The official conceded, however, that there was speculation within the Reagan administration that Mr. Gorbachev might indeed make a last-minute decision to attend the session, and that such a step would cause concern to American policymakers.

The official noted a precedent for quick decisions by Mr. Gorbachev to seek a summit. Last year, Mr. Gorbachev requested a meeting with Mr. Reagan only weeks before the two leaders met in Reykjavik, Iceland, in October.

The official said the United States does not particularly want

to hold a summit unless it results in an agreement to eliminate intermediate nuclear forces. If Mr. Gorbachev arrives in New York in September, negotiations on a pact might not be completed, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Under terms both sides are said to have accepted, Mr. Gorbachev would extend his stay to about 10 days if an agreement is reached on intermediate nuclear forces, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Mr. Gorbachev's tentative itinerary includes a visit to California, where he would stay as a guest at the president's ranch near Santa Barbara, the newspaper reported.

Soviet officials have asked, and the United States has agreed, to allow Mr. Gorbachev to visit an aircraft assembly plant in southern California and Silicon Valley near San Francisco, the centre of U.S. semiconductor and computer research and manufacturing that is normally off-limits to the Soviets, the Times reported.

Mr. Gorbachev also would visit farms and industrial food processing plants in California's central valley and would probably tour Disneyland, the newspaper said.

In 1959, the late Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev was barred from the amusement park on grounds of security.

Britain's RAF reportedly planned to kidnap Hitler

LONDON (R) — Britain's Royal Air Force (RAF) schemed to kidnap Adolf Hitler in 1941 after intelligence suggested the German leader's personal pilot was ready to defect, the Sunday Times newspaper reported.

Sponsors say the bills were aimed specifically at nuclear weapons believed stored at the U.S. military facilities of Clark Air Base and the Subic Bay Naval Station. The United States refuses to confirm or deny the presence of nuclear weapons at its bases in the Philippines.

If approved as drafted, the ban would be even stiffer than one imposed by New Zealand, which bars nuclear-armed ships from its ports but permits transit through territorial waters.

The Philippine measure would ban the storage and import of nuclear arms "into the country or within its territorial waters whether in transit or disembarkation." The ban includes Philipine airspace.

Last year, the United States suspended security guarantees to New Zealand and reduced the exchange of intelligence information after the Wellington government refused to allow nuclear-armed ships to call at its ports.

Both the Philippine and U.S. administrations clearly want to avoid friction over the issue, especially at a time when Manila is seeking more economic and military assistance to revive the economy and confront Communists.

The decision to send senior ministers and top-ranking officials overseas was taken at a cabinet meeting chaired by President Hossain Mohammad Ershad Saturday.

A highly-placed source told Reuters the envoys would carry personal letters from Gen. Ershad to heads of government. But he could not say how many countries they would visit.

He said they would also meet politicians and officials to explain the magnitude of the loss caused by the floods.

Observers said Gen. Ershad was launching the diplomatic offensive because he felt most rich countries had responded coolly to his appeal for help.

Only two countries have so far pledged emergency support — Japan 100,000 tonnes of grain and the United States \$25,000.

"This is simply peanuts. We need at least \$100 million to tide us over the situation," one official said.

An official at the flood emergency centre said flooding in the worst-affected north of the country were receding but the Bangladeshi capital was still under threat.

Most of Dhaka's suburbs are under water and floodwaters is only 200 metres from Gen. Ershad's house in the main military area, he said.

The floods have caused 525 known deaths in the last month and destroyed 1.5 million tonnes of grain.

Seventeen million people over a huge area of one of the world's poorest countries have been affected by the disaster.

A major opposition group, the Bangladeshi Nationalist Party, said foreign donors were not coming forward because they suspected the ruling Jatiya Party might misappropriate the relief.

The opposition daily La Prensa and two other newspapers, El Siglo and Extra, were closed by the government on July 26 over their demands that Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega resign. Noriega is head of the national defence forces and is regarded as the power behind Mr. Delvalle's presidency.

Two radio stations, KW Continente and Radio Mundial, were also closed after the government accused them of broadcasting material likely to disrupt public order.

Panama's 85-year-old ex-President Arnulfo Arias Madrid, head of the opposition Authentic Panamanian Party, waved to the women from a balcony along the route.

At the Santa Ana Park where the march ended, speakers called for respect for the right of free expression.

They also expressed support for five Civic Crusade leaders, all prominent business people, for

COLUMNS 7 & 8

Egypt declares war on jellyfish

CAIRO (R) — The Egyptian government is planning to fight an invasion of jellyfish plaguing its beaches. The daily Al Ahram Sunday quoted State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Atef Ebeid as saying the government would set traps off nine Mediterranean and